

(c) Rain repellent system on A-300 aircraft of Indian Airlines was discontinued due to non-availability of rain repellent which was environment friendly as per the recommendation of Airbus Industry. However, environment friendly rain repellent is now available in the market and the systems are being progressively re-activated during major checks of A-300 aircraft.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Violation of Flight Regulation by Alliance Air Pilots

1725. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Alliance Air planes are over-worked and needs frequent repairs and develop snags at the time of landing or taking off;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide better air service;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the pilots of Alliance Airlines often overlook technical snags or violate flight and duty time regulations to log in the minimum flying hours to earn their salary; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the authorities to discourage such risky practices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Removal of Slums around Airports

1726. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the location of slums around the airports is a safety hazard;

(b) the names of the airports which are bordered by slum colonies; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to relocate such slums?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The location of slums around the airport could be safety hazard in the form of bird activity due to dumping of garbage and other refuse in the open.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Clearance of upgradation proposal of Amritsar Airport by PIB

1727. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 350 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 2000 and state:

(a) whether a revised proposal to upgrade Amritsar Airport to International standards approved by AAI, has since been cleared by Public Investment Board (PIB);

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) by when it is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the amount released so far for modernisation and upgradation of the airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) A revised proposal to upgrade Amritsar airport to international standards at an estimated cost of Rs. 79.27 crores has been prepared keeping in view the direction of Public Investment Board (PIB) and the same is in the process of being submitted before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration.

Reconsideration of decision to Disinvest AI

1728. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the right to fly passengers to and from India is potentially profitable as is evident from the interest shown by the Virgin Airlines; and

(b) the action proposed to reconsider the decision of the Government to privatise Air India in view of massive interest from all over the world?